

AHOSKIE KIWANIS CLUB HAS SECTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

AHOSKIE KIWANIS CLUB

By N. S. GARRETT

In February, 1925, a few of the business and professional men in Ahoskie, realizing the great need for a civic organization, banded themselves together and began working towards that end, contacting persons in Ahoskie and surrounding towns for their ideas and cooperation. As they worked, more men were added to the list. They decided to join Kiwanis International. They completed the organization of a Kiwanis Club with a membership of forty-six, and the Charter was presented to the Club at a meeting held August 17, 1925, at Chowan College.

The following were the Club's first officers: Rev. R. G. L. Edwards, President; N. S. Garrett, Secretary; and J. L. Sawyer, Treasurer.

All members were from the Roanoke Chowan section,

AUTHOR OF THE "HISTORY OF THE AHOSKIE KIWANIS CLUB"

NOAH S. GARRETT, Ahoskie, N. C., is the son of Noah Garrett and the late Mary Sawyer Garrett, of Camden, N. C. Born in Camden, August 17, 1896, he attended the Elizabeth City, N. C., schools, served in the U. S. Navy during the World War, and after his discharge was associated with Elizabeth City business interests until 1925, when he came to Ahoskie to enter the furniture business.



He married Miss Eula Davis, June 16, 1917, and there is one child, Norvin W., a student at Duke University, Durham, N. C.

He has been an indefatigable worker and leader, both in the field of business and in civic affairs, during his residence in Ahoskie. One of the organizers of the Ahoskie Kiwanis Club and holder of all offices within the club, he is best known in civic affairs for the leadership of the club, which has won outstanding place in Kiwanis International. He is still serving as Secretary of the Club, a post he has held for many years. He has also given of his

abounding energy in other fields of public endeavor, notably as President of the Hertford County Building & Loan Association. Other positions either held or in which he now serves include: Lieutenant-Governor of the Sixth Division of Kiwanis International, President of the Southern Retail Furniture Association, and Secretary of the Ahoskie Mutual Burial Association.

He is Methodist, Mason and Woodman.

twenty-five from Ahoskie, four from Aulander, two from Colerain, one from Gatesville, eight from Murfreesboro, two from Powellsville, three from Winton, and one from Woodland. Following the organization of the Club, and the accomplishment of worth-while things for the community, other men became interested, and by the end of the year ten new members were added, bringing the membership up to fifty-six.

One of its first objectives was a large post office for Ahoskie, the one at the time being entirely too small for the work that was necessary to be done there.

In 1926 the Kiwanis Club voted as its main objective for the next four years, the giving of four scholarships to worthy girls at Chowan College, one from each of the four counties represented in the Club—Hertford, Bertie, Northampton and Gates—at a total cost of \$1,600.00, payable \$400.00 per year. The entire membership of the Club took much interest in

PRESIDENT OF AHOSKIE KIWANIS CLUB



IRA CASWELL AINSLEY, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Ainsley, was born at Stonewall, N. C., December 1, 1907. After attending the public schools, he was graduated from the University of North Carolina, A. B. degree in Education.

He taught in the Ahoskie schools, where he also served as athletic coach. On November 25, 1931, he married Miss Mary Raynor, of Powellsville. Since giving up school work five years ago he has served as representative of a fertilizer company.

He is a member of the Christian church. Elected as president of the Kiwanis Club, he is now serving in that capacity.

the education of these four girls through their four years at Chowan College.

The members raised the first \$400.00, payable in the Fall of 1926 from private subscriptions and from funds on hand in the treasurer.

In April, 1927, it was decided that more interest would be created if the club worked for the funds for these scholarships instead of paying for them out of the treasury. The result was the employment of C. S. Berryman, of Norfolk, Virginia, to coach and present a minstrel. It was shown three times, one night in Ahoskie, one at the Roxobel-Kelford school, and one night at Chowan College. More than \$1,200 was raised for the fund.

During the Spring of 1927 the club awarded medals to Seniors with highest honors through the four years of high school in each town represented in the Club. The ten towns were Ahoskie, Aulander, Colerain, Conway, Gatesville, Harrellsville, Murfreesboro, Powellsville, Winton and Woodland. These medals have been awarded every year except two. A total of seventy medals have been awarded.

The Club was very active in cooperating with the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce in putting on a peanut exposition in 1927. There was an attractive booth in the exposition building giving the names of the members of the Club and the towns represented. A beautiful float was also entered in the parade.

In 1928 the club used its influence to secure better roads throughout the Roanoke-Chowan section, and especially for improvement of the road from Ahoskie to Aulander. The Club also worked on the idea of a hospital for this section, which has never materialized, but is still a dream of the future.

In April of this year the Club put on its second minstrel to raise funds for the scholarships. After careful consideration, it was decided that a minstrel would not pay a third year, and for the next three years amateur shows were given with local talent.

The Club took an active part in sponsoring the N. R. A. locally in 1933, helping to get merchants and other business men to cooperate.

In the Fall of that year the Club furnished school books for children whose parents were not able to buy them. This work gave the members so much satisfaction they voted underprivileged child work as the Club's continuing objective.

The idea of a three-day "Kiwanis Festival" was born in 1934. Work began immediately with the result that the first "Kiwanis Festival" was held in Ahoskie, August 15, 16, and 17th, 1934, with the entire proceeds to be used for underprivileged child work. Two years later the "Kiwanis Festival" was made an annual event to be held in June. The Festival consisted of a carnival run by the members of the Club, assisted by the boys and girls of this section, a floor show with a different program each night, and ending with a dance, thus providing entertainment for all ages. The "Kiwanis Festival" has been worked up and improved on, until everybody, young and old alike, look forward to this annual event.

In the fourteen years of the Club's existence it has accomplished much for the Roanoke-Chowan section. One year the Club helped sponsor a "Better Homes Week" that brought more than two thousand people to Ahoskie. Hertford County's outstanding Boy Club member was sent to Washington, D. C., for a week. As many as fifty-eight baskets of flowers have been sent to sick people in hospitals, and many baskets of foodstuff distributed during the Christmas holidays. More than one hundred fifty underprivileged children have been treated and operated on for club feet, hairlips, cleft palates, plastic surgery, and scar tissue of face and eyes, tonsil operations, treating children with defective eyes and vision, and operating on cross-eyed children, furnishing glasses for all those who needed them, and having X-rays made in clinics. These treatments and operations have been worth thousands and thousands of dollars to these boys and girls, as it enables them to go through life without the handicaps they would otherwise have had. The Club has given large donations to flood and tornado sufferers during these years.

The Club has created a better relationship between the business and professional men and the farmers of the Roanoke-Chowan section. It sets aside one meeting in each year as "Farmers Night," each member bringing a farmer with him as his guest, and giving a program on Agriculture or Dairying. The Club has sponsored the sale of cows for 4-H Club boys.

During the life of the Ahoskie Kiwanis Club the membership has varied; some of the members moving away, and some being claimed by death. Today the Club is active with a membership of thirty-three. Only six of the charter members have stuck with the Club throughout the fourteen years. They are D. P. Boyette, D. R. Britton, R. R. Copeland, A. J. Eley, N. S. Garrett and C. Greene. One interesting fact about the membership is that Dr. J. B. Ruffin and W. A. Tayloe, who were charter members, have sometime since retired from the

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